

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-7 and 9-21 are pending in the application. Claims 8 and 22 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2, 14, 19, and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found in the application as filed. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-21 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-21, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0035471 (“Pitsoulakis”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,823,480 (“Brown”) and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0034872 (“Huyge”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-13

The cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Huyge, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Huyge do not disclose or suggest determining whether a user of a modem is authorized to access an information service to be provided over a communication link and visually indicating at a second location of the modem whether the user of the modem is authorized to access the information service, as in claim 1.

The Office, at page 4 of the Office Action, asserts that paragraphs 0083-0084 of Pitsoulakis teach “determining whether a user of a modem is authorized to have access to an information service.” Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portions of Pitsoulakis describe configuring an access device. In Pitsoulakis, the user uses a personal computer (PC) that has been connected to the access device, points the PC to a universal resource locator (URL) of a designated internet service provider (ISP), gets on-screen and step-by-step instructions, and configures the access device. See Pitsoulakis, paragraphs 0083-0084. In Pitsoulakis, after the installation of the access device is complete, the user can use established connections, such as a

wireless connection, a universal serial bus (USB) connection, an Ethernet connection, or a home phone networking alliance (HPNA) connection for home networking applications or small office networking applications. See Pitsoulakis, paragraphs 0083-0084. Thus, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis describe configuring an access device but fail to disclose or suggest determining whether a user of a modem is authorized to access an information service to be provided over a communication link and visually indicating at a second location of the modem whether the user of the modem is authorized to access the information service, as in claim 1. In addition, in Pitsoulakis, light emitting diodes (LEDs) are used to indicate connectivity or activity but not authorization. See Pitsoulakis, paragraphs 0034-0035. Hence, Pitsoulakis fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1.

Brown describes a modem in communication with a Cable TV (CATV) provider. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. A controller of the modem initiates registration of the modem. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. The registration is completed when a configuration of the modem matches a configuration that is previously stored at the CATV head-end. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. LEDs indicate an on-line state when the configurations match. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. The cited portions of Brown fail to disclose or suggest determining whether a user of a modem is authorized to access an information service to be provided over a communication link and visually indicating at a second location of the modem whether the user of the modem is authorized to access the information service, as in claim 1. Hence, Brown fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1.

Hyuge describes providing a first period of time during which a user is authorized to activate an input means. See Hyuge, Abstract. In Hyuge, in response to a predetermined user input during the first period of time, a second period of time is provided during which the user is authorized to activate the user input means. See Hyuge, Abstract. In Hyuge, an event is triggered in response to a user input during the second period of time. See Hyuge, Abstract. The cited portions of Hyuge fail to disclose or suggest determining whether a user of a modem is authorized to access an information service to be provided over a communication link and visually indicating at a second location of the modem whether the user of the modem is authorized to access the information service, as in claim 1. Hence, Hyuge fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and

Hyuge, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-3, 5-7, and 9-13 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Claims 14-18

The cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. For example, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge fail to disclose or suggest a data detection mechanism operable to output an authorization signal in response to a determination that a user of the system is authorized to access the remote information service, the data detection mechanism operable to extinguish the access signal when the remote information service is not in operation, as in claim 14.

In Pitsoulakis, a user uses a PC that has been connected to an access device, points the PC to a URL of a designated ISP, gets on-screen and step-by-step instructions, and configures the access device. See Pitsoulakis, paragraphs 0083-0084. In Pitsoulakis, LEDs are used to indicate connectivity or activity but not authorization. See Pitsoulakis, paragraphs 0034-0035. The cited portions of Pitsoulakis fail to disclose or suggest a data detection mechanism operable to output an authorization signal in response to a determination that a user of the system is authorized to access the remote information service, the data detection mechanism operable to extinguish the access signal when the remote information service is not in operation, as in claim 14. Hence, Pitsoulakis fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 14.

Brown describes a modem in communication with a Cable TV (CATV) provider. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. A controller of the modem initiates registration of the modem and the registration is complete when a configuration of the modem matches a configuration that is previously stored at the CATV head-end. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. LEDs indicate an on-line state when the configurations match. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. The cited portions of Brown fail to disclose or suggest a data detection mechanism operable to output an authorization signal in response to a determination that a user of the system is authorized to access the remote information service, the data detection mechanism operable to extinguish the access signal when

the remote information service is not in operation, as in claim 14. Hence, Brown fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 14.

Hyuge describes providing a first period of time during which a user is authorized to activate an input means. See Hyuge, Abstract. In Hyuge, in response to a predetermined user input during the first period of time, a second period of time is provided during which the user is authorized to activate the user input means. See Hyuge, Abstract. The cited portions of Hyuge fail to disclose or suggest a data detection mechanism operable to output an authorization signal in response to a determination that a user of the system is authorized to access the remote information service, the data detection mechanism operable to extinguish the access signal when the remote information service is not in operation, as in claim 14. Hence, Hyuge fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 14. Therefore, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. Hence, claim 14 is allowable. Claims 15-18 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 14.

Claims 19-21

The cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 19. For example, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge fail to disclose or suggest providing a subscriber with a broadband modem, the broadband modem comprising a first indicator operable to display a connectivity status indicating whether a connection exists between the broadband modem and a network aggregation node and a second indicator operable to display an authorization status indicating whether a user of the broadband modem is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 19.

In Pitsoulakis, a user uses a PC that has been connected to an access device, points the PC to a URL of a designated ISP, gets on-screen and step-by-step instructions, and configures the access device. See Pitsoulakis, paragraphs 0083-0084. In Pitsoulakis, LEDs are used to indicate connectivity or activity but not authorization. See Pitsoulakis, paragraphs 0034-0035. The cited portions of Pitsoulakis fail to disclose or suggest providing a subscriber with a broadband modem, the broadband modem comprising a first indicator operable to display a

connectivity status indicating whether a connection exists between the broadband modem and a network aggregation node and a second indicator operable to display an authorization status indicating whether a user of the broadband modem is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 19. Hence, Pitsoulakis fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19.

Brown describes a modem in communication with a Cable TV (CATV) provider. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. A controller of the modem initiates registration of the modem and the registration is completed when a configuration of the modem matches a configuration that is previously stored at the CATV head-end. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. LEDs indicate an on-line state when the configurations match. See Brown col. 4, lines 44-55. The cited portions of Brown fail to disclose or suggest providing a subscriber with a broadband modem, the broadband modem comprising a first indicator operable to display a connectivity status indicating whether a connection exists between the broadband modem and a network aggregation node and a second indicator operable to display an authorization status indicating whether a user of the broadband modem is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 19. Hence, Brown fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19.

Hyuge describes providing a first period of time during which a user is authorized to activate an input means. See Hyuge, Abstract. In Hyuge, in response to a predetermined user input during the first period of time, a second period of time is provided during which the user is authorized to activate the user input means. See Hyuge, Abstract. The cited portions of Hyuge fail to disclose or suggest providing a subscriber with a broadband modem, the broadband modem comprising a first indicator operable to display a connectivity status indicating whether a connection exists between the broadband modem and a network aggregation node and a second indicator operable to display an authorization status indicating whether a user of the broadband modem is authorized to access the remote information service, as in claim 19. Hence, Hyuge fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19. Therefore, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 19. Hence, claim 19 is allowable. Claims 20-21 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 19.

Claim 4 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 4, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Pitsoulakis in view of Brown and Hyuge, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,022 (“Hartmaier”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1. As explained above, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. The cited portions of Hartmaier fail to disclose or suggest those elements of claim 1 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hyuge. For example, the cited portions of Hartmaier fail to disclose or suggest determining whether a user of a modem is authorized to access an information service to be provided over a communication link and visually indicating at a second location of the modem whether the user of the modem is authorized to access the information service, as in claim 1. Hartmaier describes forwarding subscriber information to a data network service provider identified by subscriber information for authentication purposes. See Hartmaier, Abstract. In Hartmaier, if authenticated, the subscriber terminal is connected to the data network via one of the voice network nodes. See Hartmaier, Abstract. Thus, the cited portions of Hartmaier describe connecting a subscriber terminal to a data network after authenticating subscriber information but do not disclose or suggest visually indicating that the user of the modem is authorized to access the data network. The cited portions of Hartmaier fail to disclose or suggest determining whether a user of a modem is authorized to have access to an information service to be provided over a communication link and visually indicating at a second location of the modem whether the user of the modem is authorized to access the information service, as in claim 1. Thus, the cited portions of Pitsoulakis, Brown, and Hartmaier, individually or in combination, fail to disclose at least one element of claim 1, from which claim 4 depends. Hence, claim 4 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references as applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the

objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

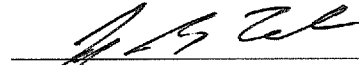
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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